1946 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume LIX - Number 2 – February 2010

General Meeting

Friday February 19, 2010
7:30pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette

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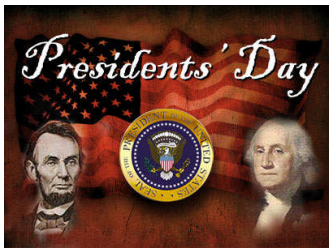
SANTA CLARA

HOST OF PACIFICON 2012

Affiliated Club



PRESIDENT'S QTC

OUR CLUB WILL HOST THE 2012 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION ! During their January 2010 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors named our club as host entity for the 2012 National Convention and ARRL EXPO which will be held at PACIFICON in Santa Clara October 19-21. This will be the first time since 1965 than the ARRL Pacific Division has hosted a national convention. This achievement represents a tremendous vote of confidence in our club by Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG and Vice Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT. Congratulation to Marty Heyman, W6MDH, Chair, Paula Costa, KI6MPD, Vice Chair and the entire PACIFICON Committee! PACIFICON is back better than ever, thanks to dedication and hard work of everyone on the committee! - *John Ronan, K3ZJJ*

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

It is often said "When all else fails, there is amateur radio." But how to stay on the air when your electricity source has failed you is another story. The devastating earthquake in Haiti and this month's "snowmageddon" which buried the Mid-Atlantic states are but two examples where emergency electricity sources were vital to maintain communications. At this month's general membership meeting, David Haycock, KI6AWR, will give a presentation on how to set up and operate an emergency-powered amateur radio station.

Before the meeting starts, KI6AWR will give a hands-on demonstration on the kinds of connectors and parts needed to assemble an emergency station.

For all new hams, if you have any problems operating your new rig, bring it and its manual to the meeting at 7pm and we will try to get an "Elmer" connected with you. If you are willing to help, or you need help, please arrive around 7pm.

— Vice President Dale McIntire, AD6HD

2007 PACIFICON Banquet Speaker Elected ARRL President

At its January 2010 Annual Meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors elected First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as the organization's new President. She will succeed retiring President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, who was the 2006 PACIFICON banquet speaker. First licensed in 1983, N3KN became Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager in 1986 and Atlantic Division Vice Director in 1990. Six years later, she became Atlantic Division Director; in 2000 she was elected Vice President and in 2006 First Vice President. Kay and her husband Carter, N3AO, reside in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Kay Craigie, N3KN, speaking during the 2007 PACIFICON banquet at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon *(KE6ZIW photo)*

Stanley M. Gordon, later W2CVL, at his radioman's post during World War II. Now retired in Arkansas, he had a long career as a shipboard maritime telegrapher.

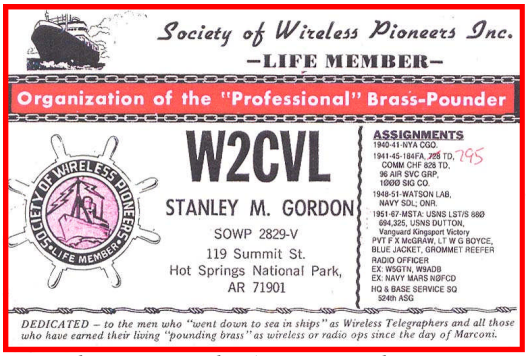


Photo and QSL card courtesy of Cornelius Washington, KR0Z, President of the Ohio-Michigan-Indiana-Kentucky Amateur Radio Association (OMIK)

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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Vice President - Dale McIntire AD6HD ad6hd@arrl.net
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Treasurers - Doug Hinkley KI6VVV and
Rebecca Hinkley KI6VVT
Emergency Coordinator
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Directors At Large
Dave Gordon N6SWE
Ron Luttringer K6XC
Jim Siemons AF6PU

PACIFICON 2010
Chair Marty Heyman W6MDH
Vice Chair Paula Costa KI6MPD

Membership Chair – Tom Deeble KA6SIP
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Volunteer Examinations - Ron Lutringer K6XC
Public Service - Pete Harris KE6ZIW
Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles WA6CIE
Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
School Liaisons - Jim Siemons AF6PU and Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan AF6HQ

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc

GET ON THE AIR CLASS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 AND THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2010 AT A LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. CONTACT JOHN PRIMUS AF6RJ@ARRL.NET FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

OPERATING ON THE VHF / UHF BANDS

Prior to the class – An introduction – What prompted you to get a license?

***PART I** – Understanding the 2 Meter Band and how to use your HT*

- Tech Class Operating Privileges

Getting your bearings
    Band Plans: How the 2 Meter Band is Organized
Handi-Talkies – Anatomy of a hand-held transceiver (HT)
    Quick overview of some common makes and models
    Familiarity with basic controls on your HT
Get On the Air
    Etiquette, Protocol and Voice Projection
        What to say and how and when to say it
    A Simplex QSO
Important HT Accessories
    External antennas to increase range
    Spare Battery and/or Power Supply
        Battery care
        External power supplies
More radio features
    Scanning
    Dual Watch

PART II – Understanding Repeaters, Programming your HT and Nets

- Brief overview of the 70 cm band plan

Repeater Review (Simplex vs. Duplex)
    Fixed frequency for Tx / Rx
    Offsets and Reverse
    CTCSS "PL" Tones

- Programming your HT for Repeater Use (V O T E)

Using your HT memories
    Organizing your radio memory usage
    Using a PC to store settings
A QSO on a Repeater
    Repeater etiquette and protocol
What a net is and how it works
    Participation in our own special net
Advanced Applications
    IRLP / Echolink, APRS, SSTV, PSK31

The Club's Education and Training Committee is seeking new committee members that are interested in helping people that are, or might become, interested in amateur radio become licensed and join our wonderful hobby. If you would like to help, please contact John Primus, AF6RJ, via email at AF6RJ@arrl.net or telephone 925-825-7670.

MDARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 11, 2010

Presiding Officer –John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Recorded by Richard Fletcher, WA9UKA

Meeting opened at 7:04 PM

New business:
Discussion of Xmas party for 2010/2011. All parties agreed to return to Highlands Country Club in Oakland considering the satisfactory time had in 2009. The date was set as Dec 16.

A motion was made to offer past Secretary Paul Dickey an accolade for his 5 years service to MDARC. All agreed.

On the subject of the club trailer it was noted by a member that City of Martinez wants to give up ownership. It was pointed out that the San Ramon Fire Disaster Response Team wants it. The transfer date is unknown at this time. It was noted that we are paying a storage fee for the trailer and there was further discussion about the trailer's usage. It was noted that this transfer needs the membership's approval. All agreed to try to for the transfer.

Goals for 2010 were reviewed. One was institution of a public school outreach program and making flyers to support this.

Brad Sage, K6JPR brought ARRL handbooks to be raffled at the next general meeting.

A discussion about raffles ensued and it was stated that our raffles intent was to encourage attendance, not make a profit. I was pointed that we are not breaking even but are losing from 10 to 20 dollars each meeting. There was more discussion on the subject and it was decided to continue as we have been doing, but ask the membership about it next meeting.

A need was stated to update the repeater control operators list. It was also noted that we need to simplify the control codes.

It was stated that newly licensed hams need operating experience. It was noted how important this is for Cert personnel. It was suggested that there be operating skills presentation at our club and that it would be an incentive to keep new hams around. There many suggestions as to how to do this. It was moved and approved that the Education and Training person come up with a list of equipment that appeals to newer hams. Further discussion ensued on the subject.

There was a motion to post the Carrier on our website. I was noted that this is already being done. A discussion ensued about mailing and e-mailing the Carrier.

A question was asked about how to get quicker reimbursement for expenses i.e. postage, etc.

It was noted that are lots of comments about our webpage. There followed a discussion about improving the website. The subjects were: Arranging it so members can update information on the website themselves rather that relying on the webmaster. Streaming audio from the repeater. Making the website much more sophisticated.

It was suggested that we locate Pacificon equipment in a more public area to get more exposure.

The Tech Committee noted that the Voter project should take 2nd priority to other import needs. That is Renegotiating the rental contract. The committee chair and the president agreed to do this.

There was a discussion about tax exempt status and how to use it.

A decision was arrive at to give new hams free membership until the end of the current year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by:
Richard Fletcher, WA9UKA

MDARC Club General Membership Meeting Minutes January 15, 2010

Presided by President John Ronan, K3ZJJ

The meeting was convened at 7:30 PM followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Marty Heyman spoke briefly about Pacificon status. He stated that the flyers are now available and tickets will be coming soon. The location for this year is at the San Ramon Marriot and the ticket prices will be the same as last year. Parking will be available at the hotel and there will be additional parking nearby with a shuttle service to the convention.

President Ronan introduced some new members and then spoke about the need for classes. He approximated the size to be about 30 students. He introduced a guest, a new ham, who was visiting from the Sacramento Radio Club. He said that there were new hams tonight. Three general tests were passed as well as 2 technician tests. He then introduced the committee chair appointees and the secretary.

Glen NO6W spoke about the MDARC reflector and about that Yahoo Group. He spoke about a new Wire Antenna Handbook.

It was noted that a local ham made a trip to Beale AFB and met with officials there about interference in the 400 Mhz band. John Schuler, KG6CZX wants to organize a field trip to Beale AFB. He is suggesting chartering a bus if the demand is there. We also heard that Air Force officials from Beale AFB visited the recent NARC meeting and presented their concerns.

A concerned person spoke then about training classes at the local Salvation Army.

The vice president then acquainted everyone with his club responsibilities.

The membership chair reported that the membership count stands at 336 members, 197 of whom are ARRL members. He spoke briefly about renewals.

President Ronan spoke about the changes coming in the club web page.

Lauren Styles spoke about Field Day and stated that there was no site chosen yet and that it will take place the 4th weekend in June.

The treasurers reported the assets of $2,600 in checking and $26,000 in a CD. President John spoke then about dues and expenses.

The club was informed of two Silent Keys in December. They were WB6GGC, John and K6GXU, Don.

President Ronan spoke about the raffle and called for a break.

Tim Barrett, K6BIV gave a thorough presentation about D-Star radio until 9:15 when the President called for the raffle to begin. When the raffle was finished the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted by
Richard Fletcher, WA9UKA, Secretary

GETTIN' THE PICTURE !

By John Schuler, KG6CZX

This month we will talk about getting started in ATV. The first thing to do is get your receiver up and running.

You will need to decide which of the two repeater output frequencies you wish to receive. You have two choices: 919.25 MHz or 1289.250 MHz. There are some things to consider here. 919.250 will have a bigger footprint from the hill but may be plagued with interference from Part 15 devices in your neighborhood. 1289.250 is much cleaner but you will have to make provisions so as to not interfere with yourself as your transmitted signal is on 1241.250 MHz. The ATV group will be happy to come to your QTH and do a site survey recommend what will work best for you.

After making a decision on which repeater output you will receive, you will need a *downconverter* for that frequency. A downconverter is a device that receives the output from the repeater and converts it to either channel 3 or 4 on a regular TV receiver They can be purchased already built from PC Electronics or in kit form from North Country Radio. We have found that if you live a great distance from the repeater, the North Country is a better choice as it is much more sensitive than those from PC Electronics. If you decide you would like a North Country kit but are not keen on thee idea of assembling it, we would be glad to build it for you.

Next, you will need a antenna to connect to the downconverter to receive the signal from the repeater. This should be a directional type yagi of some sort, a loop yagi seems to work best, but it really comes down to your location. Some guys have built there own antennas with good results. Some have even used modified satellite dishes. All of the antennas used for ATV, both receive and transmit, will need to be **VERTICALLY** polarized.

Now comes the all important coaxial cable to connect the antenna to the down converter. **Rule of thumb says use the best you can afford!!** LMR-400 works great, 9913 works real well, "hard line" works the best but is expensive and hard to work with. In any event you should use the best quality you can obtain. In most cases, 9913 would be a good choice.

Last but not least is a television receiver which can receive channel 3 and or 4. It does not have to be digital… any old analog TV will do. A short cable goes from the downconverter to the TV and you are in business. NOW, YOU TOO CAN GET THE PICTURE!!

In closing, remember, we will be glad to come to your QTH and do a site survey to be sure you will be able to use the system before you spend a dime. We look forward to getting many people on the air this year and we have great plans for ATV in 2010!

If you would like more information please feel free to give me a call or sent me an E-Mail.

DAY = 925-828-5297
EVENINGS = 925-449-5219
E-Mail: JohnQRZ@aol.com
See You On The Tube!

John Schuler, KG6CZX
Chair, Amateur Television Committee

FLASH BULLETIN ! The ATV repeater internet stream is now at:

http://www.w6cxatv.net/live

Thanks to Mitchell Boyce, W8DOD (ex-KJ6EVY), for setting up the new streaming URL !

HAM RADIO OUTLET

12 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU !

Free UPS ground delivery in Continental USA for most orders over $100
HRO has Twelve Store Buying Power Working For You

HRO - 12 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU
Free UPS ground delivery in Continental USA for most orders over $100
HRO has Twelve Store Buying Power Working For You
All HRO stores open 10AM-5:30PM, Telephone hours 9:30AM-5:30PM

For delivery charges or other information about ordering, please see our Frequently Asked

HRO Store Contact Information

Store	E-mail	Direct	Toll Free	Fax
Anaheim, CA	ana@hamradio.com	1-714-533-7373	1-800-854-6046	1-714-533-9485
Atlanta, GA	atl@hamradio.com	1-770-263-0700	1-800-444-7927	1-770-263-9548
Burbank, CA	bnk@hamradio.com	1-818-842-1786	1-800-854-6046	1-818-842-5283
Denver, CO	co@hamradio.com	1-303-745-7373	1-800-444-9476	1-303-745-7394
Newcastle, DE	del@hamradio.com	1-302-322-7092	1-800-644-4476	1-302-322-8808
Oakland, CA	oak@hamradio.com	1-510-534-5757	1-800-854-6046	1-510-534-0729
Phoenix, AZ	px@hamradio.com	1-602-242-3515	1-800-444-9476	1-602-395-1244
Portland, OR	or@hamradio.com	1-503-598-0555	1-800-854-6046	1-503-684-0469
Salem, NH	nh@hamradio.com	1-603-898-3750	1-800-444-0047	1-603-898-1041
San Diego, CA	sd@hamradio.com	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705
Sunnyvale, CA	sun@hamradio.com	1-408-736-9496	1-800-854-6046	1-408-736-9499
Woodbridge, VA	va@hamradio.com	1-703-643-1063	1-800-444-4799	1-703-494-3679

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATURN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+ audio 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30pm Fat City 10 meter SSB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz
ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM.
ATV Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM, 919.25 MHz AM
Internet ATV Repeater streaming: http://www.w6cxatv.net/

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County 145.680 Simplex
Pete Perata K6SHE
East County 146.535 Simplex
Drew Hanson, KD6GLY
South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)
Ed Ritchie, K6SFD
West County 145.110/- -
Steve Adams, KF6WNH

February and March 2010 Club Calendar

February 19, 2010	7:30 pm	MDARC General Membership Meeting, *Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*
March 1, 2010	7:00 pm	MDARC Board of Directors Meeting *Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek*
March 6, 2010	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting *Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg*
March 19, 2010	7:30 pm	MDARC General Membership Meeting, *Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*

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FIRST CLASS